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Coordination, programme and other questions: mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Oh Joon (Republic of Korea), on the basis of informal consultations

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[1] and recalling its resolutions on the subject matter, including resolutions 2011/6 of 14 July 2011, 2012/24 of 27 July 2012, 2013/16 of 24 July 2013 and 2014/2 of 12 June 2014,

Reaffirming also the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[2] the 2005 World Summit,[3] the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[4] the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming further that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming further the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.
[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[3] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.
[4] See General Assembly resolution 65/1.
[5] See General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

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Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and constitutes a critical strategy in the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[6] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[7] as well as in the full implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development[8] and of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 on women and peace and security,

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women and the important roles played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, taking note of the agreed conclusions and decisions of the Commission related to the promotion and monitoring of gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and reaffirming the political declaration on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, adopted by the Commission at its fifty-ninth session,[9]

Recalling General Assembly resolution 67/226 of 21 December 2012, entitled "Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system", including in particular section III.D on gender equality and women's empowerment,

Recalling also the section of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 entitled "Strengthening the institutional arrangements for support of gender equality and the empowerment of women",

1. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General[10] and the recommendations contained therein, and appreciates that it continues to include comprehensive and systematic system-wide data collection and evidence-based analysis, allowing for comprehensive follow-up on progress made throughout the United Nations system in the implementation of resolutions of the Economic and Social Council on gender mainstreaming;

2. *Urges* intensifying and continuing efforts to mainstream a gender perspective, including increasing resource allocations commensurate with gender equality goals, into all policies and programmes of the United Nations, in accordance with all relevant United Nations resolutions;

3. *Stresses* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality constitutes a key forum for advocating, coordinating and monitoring progress in the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into the overall substantive normative, operational and programmatic work within the United Nations system, and looks forward to the continued role of the Network in monitoring progress on more

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[6] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[7] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[8] *Report of the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 5-13 September 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.95.XIII.18), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[9] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 7* (E/2015/27), chap. I, sect. C.

[10] E/2015/58.

effective coordination, coherence and impact in accelerating the implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Also stresses* the need to leverage existing inter-agency networks, including the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, the United Nations Evaluation Group, the Finance and Budget Network of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the Representatives of Internal Audit Services of the United Nations Organizations and Multilateral Financial Institutions, to take increased responsibility for the implementation of relevant action plan performance indicators;

5. *Welcomes* the important and continued extensive work of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) for more effective and coherent gender mainstreaming across the United Nations, recognizes its role in leading, coordinating and promoting accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established by the General Assembly in its resolution 64/289, and also recognizes its role in assisting Member States, upon their request, at the international, regional, national and local levels;

6. *Recognizing* the importance of strengthening the capacity of UN-Women, including through adequate funding, to carry out its mandates for normative support, coordination and operational functions, inter alia, for coordinating the United Nations system in the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective and the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[6] and of its review and appraisal at the international, regional, national and local levels, including through systematic gender mainstreaming, the mobilization of resources to deliver results and the monitoring of progress with data and robust accountability systems;

7. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective mandates, to accelerate the full and effective mainstreaming of a gender perspective, commensurate with gender equality goals, in accordance with previous Economic and Social Council resolutions and General Assembly resolutions 64/289 and 67/226, including by:

(a) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all its operational mechanisms, inter alia, the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and other development frameworks;

(b) Ensuring that managers provide strong leadership and support, within the United Nations system, to advance gender mainstreaming;

(c) Increasing the investment in and focus on outputs and outcomes relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(d) Strengthening monitoring, evaluation and reporting so as to allow for system-wide assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming;

(e) Mobilizing and developing sufficient gender expertise for planning, implementation and gender-related resource allocation and tracking;

(f) Mainstreaming gender-responsive planning and budgeting and intensifying the use of gender marker systems, including in the humanitarian programme cycle;

(g) Strengthening capacities and using existing resources, including institutions and infrastructure, to assist in the development and application of unified training modules and tools on gender mainstreaming;

(h) Continuing efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments in the Professional and higher categories within the United Nations system at the headquarters, regional and country levels, including in appointments of resident coordinators, humanitarian coordinators, Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other high-level posts, in full compliance with article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, with due regard to the representation of women from developing countries;

8. *Also requests* the United Nations system to continue and increase support to Member States, with their agreement and consent, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the implementation of national policies for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, inter alia, by providing support and capacity development to national machineries for the advancement of women and girls and all national entities, in accordance with their functions;

9. *Welcomes* the report on the third year of implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,[10] and commends the progress made under the leadership of UN-Women in the performance of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming;

10. *Requests* the continued use of reporting under the System-wide Action Plan to inform the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, in order to measure the progress of the United Nations system on gender mainstreaming at the corporate level against the baseline defined in 2013;

11. *Encourages* the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and senior managers to continue to take concrete action to promote gender mainstreaming in the United Nations system, and in this regard, takes note of the commitment of the Chief Executives Board, as expressed in its statement to the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, to stepping up efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls under all respective mandates, including through pursuing systematic gender mainstreaming, substantially increasing resources to deliver results, especially under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, monitoring progress with better statistics and data disaggregated by gender, ethnicity, disability and age, and instituting robust accountability systems, including through the full implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan, as well as accelerating progress towards the equal representation of women at all levels in its diverse bodies, including through temporary special measures;

12. *Takes note* with appreciation of the interactive dialogue with representatives of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, held during the fifty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, as an example of exchanging best practices and approaches to considering gender equality in the work of the functional commissions, enhancing the attention of intergovernmental bodies to gender equality issues and promoting an active and

visible policy of mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes;

13. *Recognizes* that large gaps remain between policy and practice and that, while building the capacities of United Nations staff is very important, additional efforts, such as those recommended in the report of the Secretary-General, would enable the entire United Nations system to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming;

14. *Requests* the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, within their respective organizational mandates, to continue to work collaboratively to enhance and accelerate gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, including by:

(a) Fully implementing the System-wide Action Plan, including by ensuring compliance with performance standards and reporting requirements by all entities of the United Nations system;

(b) Increasing investments to address critical areas of the Action Plan, including as regards policy development, resource tracking and allocation, the equal representation and participation of women and gender-responsive auditing, and to support capacity development;

(c) Continuing to better align gender equality programming with national priorities across sectors, including by supporting capacity-building for government institutions and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives into legislations, policies and programmes in relation to national gender equality priorities;

(d) Continuing to include gender equality networks in planning and programme implementation, as well as continuing to build strategic partnerships with relevant actors, including civil society and women's organizations, as appropriate;

(e) Further enhancing the technical expertise on gender equality and gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system to assist in the preparation of the United Nations Development Assistant Frameworks and other relevant development programming frameworks, ensuring that gender goals are strategically prioritized and that all their dimensions are systematically addressed, and promoting the identification and exchange of best practices and technical cooperation;

(f) Leveraging the leadership and convening role of resident coordinators to address gender equality as an integral part of the work of the United Nations country teams, including through joint initiatives, collective advocacy and strengthening coordination of gender-responsive operational activities across sectors;

(g) Supporting efforts by the governing bodies of United Nations entities to devote adequate attention to gender mainstreaming in their plans and activities;

(h) Enhancing the competence of staff in results-based management and programming for gender equality;

(i) Ensuring the tracking of gender-related resource allocation and expenditure, including through the promotion of the use of gender markers that apply similar standards and principles to allow for comparability and aggregation;

(j) Promoting strategic advocacy and coherent communications on gender equality issues within the United Nations country teams;

(k) Continuing to work closely with the humanitarian coordinators to integrate gender equality into all facets of humanitarian action, and ensuring the equal promotion and protection of human rights for all, with equitable access to services;

(l) Substantially increasing the resources and focus on outcomes and outputs relating to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, especially under the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks, including through better budgetary planning, common budgetary frameworks, strengthening and rationalizing joint funding mechanisms and joint resource mobilization efforts, as well as by strengthening the predictability and sustainability of the funding, broadening the donor base and increasing the flexibility of non-core resources;

(m) Continuing to support the capacity to develop and enhance standards and methodologies, for use at the national and international levels, so as to improve the collection, analysis, dissemination and use of accurate, reliable, transparent and comparable data and statistics, disaggregated by, inter alia, gender, age and disability, that are relevant to improving its guidance to country programming;

(n) Supporting the application of a gender perspective in the preparation of organization-wide and country-level documents, such as the strategic, programmatic and results-based frameworks and evaluations, and continuing to promote more coherent, accurate and effective monitoring and reporting on progress on gender equality, the impact of the promotion of gender equality and the use of common indicators on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the situation of women and girls who face discrimination and marginalization and those in vulnerable situations;

(o) Continuing to promote the institutionalization of transparency and robust accountability systems, with a focus on assessing gender mainstreaming, including at the level of United Nations country teams, through capitalizing on the lessons learned from the design and implementation of the System-wide Action Plan, while both expanding and drawing on assets and resources instituted to support the implementation of such transparency and accountability systems;

(p) Facilitating complementarity among accountability instruments at the global and country levels;

(q) Striving for both dedicated results at the outcome level and the mainstreaming of gender equality considerations through other priority areas;

(r) Ensuring adequate resources for meeting gender-related goals and targets across the post-2015 development framework;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2016, a report on the implementation of the present resolution, including on the promotion of accountability at both the national and the global levels and on progress made in the implementation of the System-wide Action Plan.